

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY371

**Name of Service:** Safari Childcare

**Address of Service:** 2 Hanover Street East, Dublin 2

**Eircode:** D02 E860

**Name of Registered Provider:** Cian Powell, Kevin McGuinness

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 08/04/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>AM</b>	75	<b>PM</b>	60

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Jameson and C Harte
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

**Conditions if applicable** Not applicable

### Description of service

Safari Childcare is one of a eight services operated by the registered provider. This service is located in Dublin City Centre. A full day care and sessional service is provided for children aged between 1 to 6 years old. The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, the ECCE session operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm. A registered School Age Service also operates at this branch of Safari Childcare. There are six rooms in the service which are Wobbler room 1 (Unicorn), Wobbler room 2 (Flamingo), Toddler room (Jungle Crew), two Montessori rooms (Caterpillar and Butterfly) and an ECCE/School Age Care room (Honeybee). There is an outdoor area at the front of the building and a large indoor play area.

### Staffing

The two registered providers do not work in the service. The registered providers employ twenty-four adults to work in the service including an area manager, two deputy persons in charge, twenty early years practitioners and a chef. On the day of the inspection, one deputy person in charge, seventeen early years practitioners, the chef and five students were present when the inspectors arrived unannounced in the service. The registered providers and the person in charge were not present on the day of the inspection.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and Regulation 16 Record in Relation to Pre-School Service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Unicorn room, the Flamingo room and the Jungle Crew room.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
  - (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
  - (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-
- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
  - (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
  - (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
  - (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and two named persons to deputise as needed.
  - (b) One deputy person in charge was rostered to be present at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service.
  - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

- (2) A review of the roster and conversation with management showed that the registered providers currently employ 24 adults. The full staff record of the area manager, ten adults who had been employed since the last inspection, five students and one external contractor were reviewed along with the Garda vetting disclosures of thirteen staff members employed to work in the service.
- (a) Twenty written and verified references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Fourteen written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the twenty-four adults employed in the service, five students and one external contractor. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for sixteen adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to seventeen adults who had access to the children
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the eleven adults who worked directly with the children held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

There were a sufficient number of staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

There were seventeen staff members working with seventy-five children in the morning and fifteen staff members working with sixty children in the afternoon.

The adult child ratios were maintained for the duration of the inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*

*(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*

*(c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*

*(d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*

*(e) the facilities available;*

*(f) the opening hours and fees;*

*(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered providers ensured that there was a record kept in writing of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) the name, position, qualification, and experience of the person in charge and staff members were displayed on the noticeboard in the hallway for the attention of parents/guardians.
  - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered were displayed on the noticeboard in the hallway for the attention of parents/guardians.
  - (c) details of the adult to child ratios in the service were displayed on the noticeboard in the hallway for the attention of parents/guardians.
  - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service was included in the parent/guardian handbook.
  - (e) the facilities available were included in the parent/guardian handbook.
  - (f) the opening hours and fees were displayed on the noticeboard in the hallway for the attention parents and guardians.
  - (g) the required policies, procedures and statements of the service were available in the hallway for the attention parents and guardians.
  - (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child were stored in the children attendance record in each care room.
  - (i) The registered providers ensured that there was an accurate record of the staff roster containing the details of the staff members rostered on the day of inspection.
  - (j) Ten administration of medication records were reviewed, and all information was completed in full.
  - (k) Seventeen accident and incident records were reviewed, and all information was completed in full.
- (3) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspection team were available for review.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- Staff members were attentive to children's individual needs, for example, two children were settling into the service on the day of the inspection. Staff members were observed to interact warmly and kindly, using gentle and reassuring tones of voice, to support the children. Staff members discussed the settling in period with the inspectors, demonstrating familiarity with the process.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, assisting with hand washing, blowing noses and changing wet bibs for younger children.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a sociable and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children.
- The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently with discreet supervision provided by staff members. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required.
- Cosy areas were available in the care rooms, providing children with an area to relax and take part in quiet activities if they so wished.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- There was a clear sense of familiarity between staff members and the children. Children appeared content and comfortable in their environment with staff members attending to the children's individual and specific needs as required.
- The children were encouraged to follow their own interests. Staff members promoted independence and decision making, offering support to the children when required. Staff members played with and supported the children during activities.

- Staff members were observed to use positive and respectful language on the day of inspection, acknowledging the children’s achievements with praise and recognition
- The service used an electronic application to communicate with parents and update them on their child’s day including activities, mealtimes and toileting. In addition, staff members were observed to chat informally with parents at drop off and collection times.

**Physical and material environment:**

- The care rooms were designed to support the age and developmental stages of the children attending the service, equipment and materials were stored at a low level to encourage the children’s independence decision making skills.
- Child sized tables and chairs were available to the children in the care rooms, facilitating a comfortable area to eat meals and take part in tabletop activities.
- Children’s artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the care rooms and service, supporting the children’s sense of identity and links between home and the service.
- Equipment and materials in the care rooms were in good working order. Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, construction toys, cars, animals, home corners with supporting equipment and dress up, cosy areas and a selection of books were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play.

**Non-Compliance Information**

1. An alternative hot meal with equal nutritional value to that of the hot meal listed on the menu on the day of inspection was not available to the children. It is acknowledged that alternative food is available if required, but the options are not sufficient substitutes. This is at variance with the service’s healthy eating policy.
2. Children in the Unicorn room did not have access to chairs during the day except at mealtimes. The low-level chairs were stored outside of the care room, restricting the children’s access to sit down and take part in tabletop activities, if they so wished.
3. Practices that restricted opportunities for imaginative and spontaneous play experiences were observed as follows:
  - A child in the Jungle Crew room was observed to show interest in materials that were inaccessible to them due to the placement of a wooden shop.
  - Two play kitchens located in the outdoor play area did not have supporting play equipment.

**Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective and Preventive Action**

1. A new menu has been introduced listing dinner and teatime meals as well as suitable vegetarian alternative meals of adequate nutritional value. Management have updated all staff on this through a staff meeting and will ensure suitable alternatives are always offered. Management will carry out regular checks to ensure all hot meals with equal nutritional value is offered in line with the service's healthy eating policy.
2. Management will ensure a set of chairs is kept inside the room and is available to the children throughout the day to support their freedom of choice and encourage participation in a variety of activities in line with our child-led approach. Staff have been reminded of the importance of providing flexible seating options to support child choice and engagement. Management will monitor the arrangement during routine observations to ensure ongoing compliance.
3. Equipment has been repositioned to allow easier access to surrounding materials. A variety of supporting play equipment has been added to the outdoor play kitchens. Staff have been reminded to observe children's interests closely and adjust the environment to support and encourage their natural curiosity and creativity. Regular checks will be conducted by management.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

1. Documents and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
2. Documents and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
3. Documents and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 19.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. A buzzer system was in place which was managed and monitored by staff members.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed, and safety gates were used to prevent the children leaving the area unsupervised.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- The care rooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, before eating and after activities and toileting.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas to ensure the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- Lunches brought from home were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Antifebrile medication was stored in its original packaging with clear labelling and out of the reach of children. Medication was not observed to be administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over one years old in the cot room and care rooms.
- Cellular blankets were used.

- The blinds were closed and white noise played in the background, creating a relaxing environment for sleeping children.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection. Emergency evacuation routes were displayed throughout the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- Cleaning products were observed to be stored beside the sink and in reach of the children in the Flamingo room and the Jungle Crew room.

#### Infection Control:

- An area on the wash hand basin unit in the Flamingo room was observed to have a chipped surface. This posed an infection control risk as effective cleaning practices cannot be carried out.

#### Administration of Medication:

- The following was observed in relation to one child attending the service which posed a potential risk to the child's safety:
  - Emergency medication was not stored in the service and was not immediately available to the child in the event that it was required.
  - A detailed, written medical care plan to support the child and staff members was not available in the event that the emergency medication is required to be administered.
- An antifebrile medication and a liquid antihistamine medication was observed to be out of date on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that the deputy person in charge disposed of the medication immediately after the inspector brought this to their attention.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

- All cleaning products have been immediately relocated to secure areas that are out of reach of children. Staff have been reminded of the importance of storing hazardous materials safely and out of reach of children. Management will remind staff and do regular spot checks to ensure the proper storage practices are followed.

### **Infection Control:**

2. The chipped area has been repaired immediately to ensure the surface is smooth and easy to clean effectively. Staff have been reminded of the importance of reporting any damage to equipment or surfaces right away so that repairs can be made quickly, this will be recorded on in the service's maintenance log.

### **Administration of Medication:**

3. A care plan was completed by parents with a letter from the child's GP detailing the child's needs. All children with specific medical needs will have up-to-date care plans in place, which will be reviewed regularly and kept accessible to all staff by management.
4. The expired medications were promptly disposed of, and a thorough review of all medications on-site was conducted to ensure that no other expired medications were present. A medication expiry check has been added to all medicine administration forms to ensure that all medications are regularly checked, and any expired items are identified and disposed of promptly.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

1. Documentation and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

#### **Infection Control:**

2. Documentation and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

#### **Administration of Medication:**

3. Documentation and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
4. Documentation and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

#### Compliance Information

(1) Staff members were observed to greet children on arrival and their attendance and departure were promptly recorded.

(3)

(a) The service entrance was adequately monitored by staff. A staff member greeted the inspection team at the door to allow access.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(3)

(b) A visitor book was available and provided to the inspection team to sign on arrival to the service, however the following information was not included:

- Contact details for the person entering the premises.
- The name of the authorised person granting access to the premises.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(3)

(b) Management have purchased a new visitor book to include fields for the required details which will be regularly checked to ensure all required information is being recorded. All staff have been told of the

updated procedures for visitor registration and management will conduct regular audits of visitor logs to ensure compliance.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

Documentation and photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

**Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 24.